



State of Connecticut
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
STATE CAPITOL
HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT 06106-1591

REPRESENTATIVE JEFFREY J. BERGER
SEVENTY THIRD ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

STATE CAPITOL
ROOM 110
HARTFORD, CT 06106-1591
HOME: (203) 756-3440
CAPITOL: (860) 240-8585
TOLL FREE: 1(800) 842-8267
FAX: (860) 240-0206
E-MAIL: Jeffrey.Berger@cga.ct.gov

CHAIRMAN
COMMERCE COMMITTEE

MEMBER
FINANCE REVENUE AND BONDING COMMITTEE
JUDICIARY COMMITTEE

Rep. Jeffrey Berger
Testifying with Lt. Dan Lauer of Waterbury PD
and Mike Gilmore of Waterbury Development corp.

Testimony in support of HB 5319
An Act Increasing Fines for Violations of Municipal Blight Ordinances
March 2, 2012

We are testifying in support of this legislation and also asking the committee to consider an amendment to the existing bill as specified below. The purpose of this proposed amendment to HB5319 is to add a criminal penalty to the existing civil blight statute in Section 7-148(c)(7)(H)(xv).

Sec. 7-148(c)(7)(H)(xv) Make and enforce regulations for the prevention and remediation of housing blight, including regulations reducing assessments and authorizing designated agents of the municipality to enter property during reasonable hours for the purpose of remediating blighted conditions, provided such regulations define housing blight, and further provided such regulations shall not authorize such municipality or its designated agents to enter any dwelling house or structure on such property, and including regulations establishing a duty to maintain property and specifying standards to determine if there is neglect; prescribe civil and criminal penalties [fines] for the violation of such regulations. The civil penalty shall consist of not less than ten or more than one hundred dollars for each day that a violation continues and, if such penalties are prescribed, such municipality shall adopt a citation hearing procedure in accordance with section 7-152c[;]. The criminal penalty shall be a fine not to exceed two hundred and fifty dollars for each day that a violation continues;

We would also request that this new language take effect July 1, 2012 or on passage.